(d) It would have a fascinating walking area but of its own kind and not an imitation or replica of India Gate walking area.

Representation from hoteliers and travel agents for scrapping service tax

2301. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representations from hoteleriers and travel agents for scrapping of 8 per cent service tax on travel agents; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the representation and what action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Representations have been received from the hoteliers and tour operators for exemption of service tax.

(b) Vide notification No. 21/2003-ST dated 20.11.2003 all services for which payment is received in convertible foreign exchange has been exempted from the payment of service tax. At present there is no exemption available to travel agents. Ministry of Finance have informed that in view of ensuing budget, no specific comments can be offered at this stage in regard to considering the proposals for grant of exemption.

Treasures in Foreign Countries

2302. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any effort to bring back treasures of India from foreign countries;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government and the results thereof; and

(c) the details of the treasures in different foreign countries?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.